JACK-STRAWS

by Jack Wallis

Independence Day celebration

This year Independence Day falls on Sunday which means that most of the activities will be conducted on Monday, July 5th. The exception being the annual Elks fireworks which will be held Sunday evening.

With the weekend holiday, it will mean extra caution will be needed concerning the dangers of traffic accidents, forest fires and fireworks injuries.

Independence Day is also a day to celebrate freedom and the sacrifices that have been made to make this nation free and to insure the rights that insure democratic freedom. But with freedom comes responsibility.

To some, freedom means to do anything he or she wants to do. This can include jeopardizing self and others in pursuing any kind of so-called happiness or gratification, The freedom of choice in one's life can make a tremendous difference. When one uses this freedom to jeopardize the lives of others is when this freedom should end.

Laws are necessary to protect individuals from the consequences of others who would abuse the privilege of living in a free democratic society.

Sometimes the line seems to be drawn too far to one side to allow too much freedom at the expense of other basic principles. Other times laws may seem too strict in preventing harmful actions to take place and substances to be used.

The National Society to Prevent Blindness is concerned by the large number of injuries caused by fireworks during the July 4th and 24th celebrations.

Each year, approximately 12,000 people are injured in fireworks-related accidents. Almost 50 percent of those treated in emergency rooms are under age 15, according to the Utah Safety Council. Fireworks usually cause burns to the eyes, face and hands and most often happen when a firecracker either explodes in someone's hand, is dropped on a foot or explodes in a pocket.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, bottle rockets account for 72 percent of fireworks injuries requiring hospitalization. Sparklers are the second highest cause of fireworks injuries.

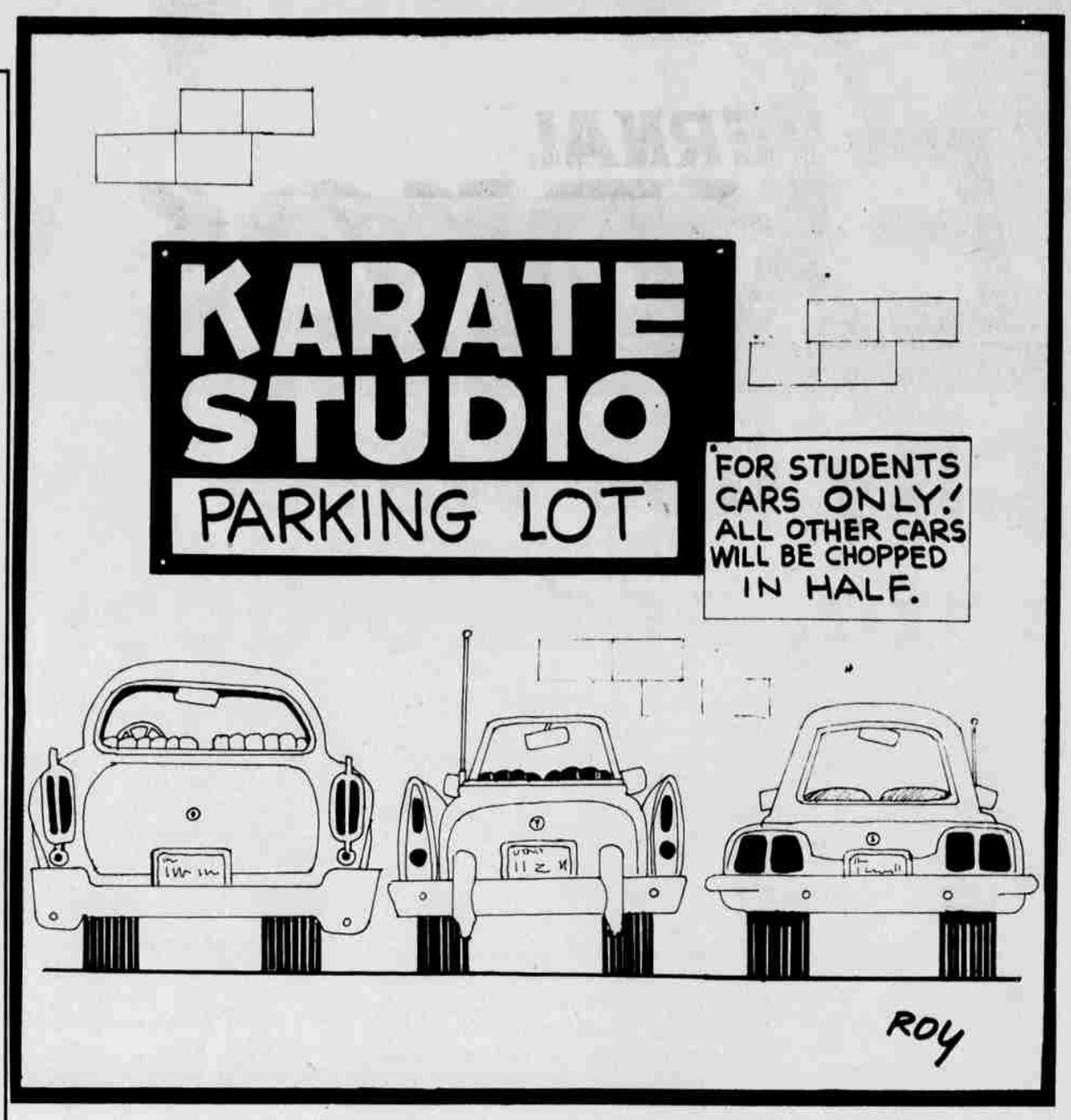
The cost of treating fireworks injuries in hospital emergency rooms skyrocketed to $24 million last year. In 1989 an estimated 33,400 fires were started, resulting in more than $62 million in property damage.

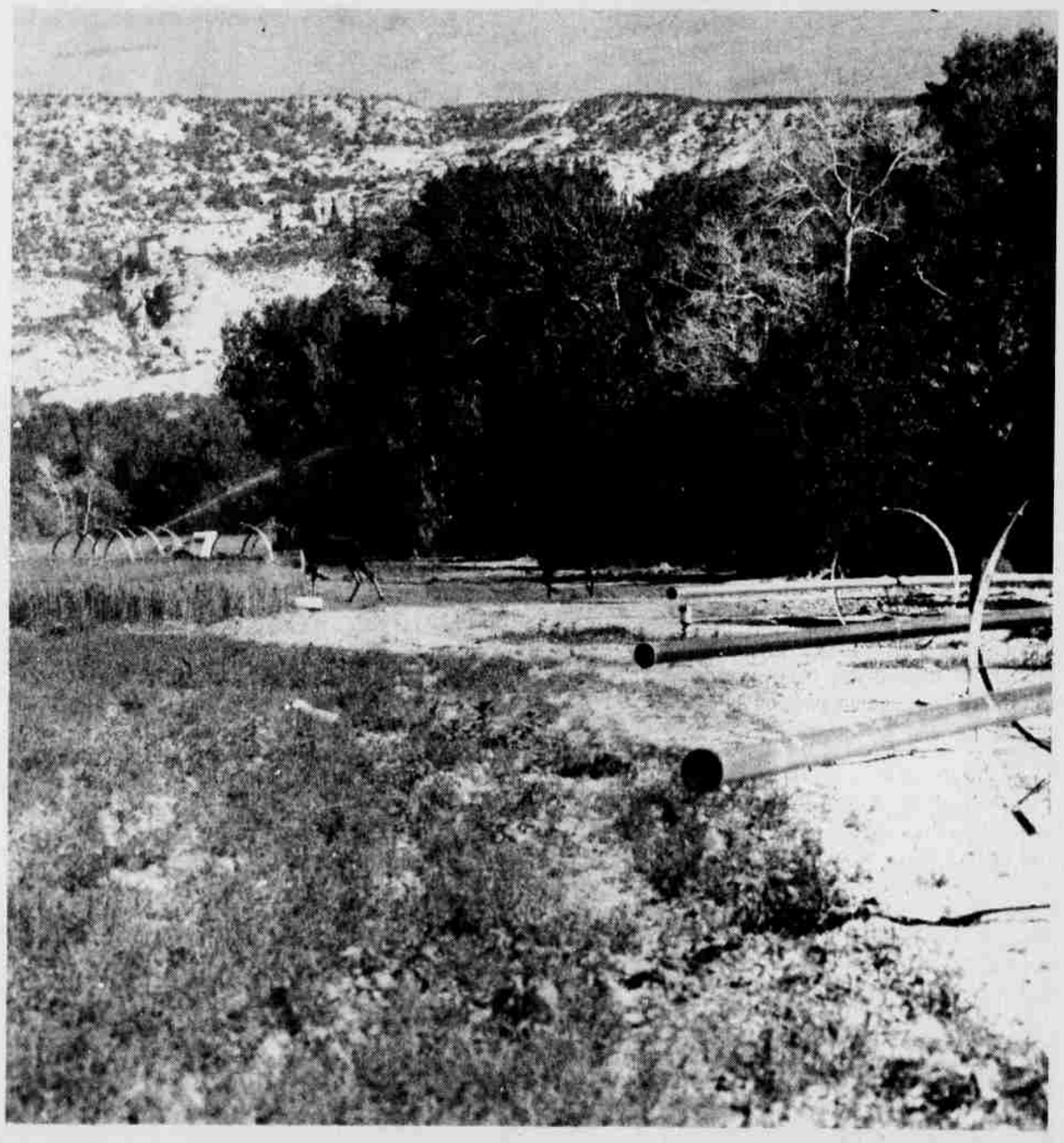
In recognition of the problems caused by fireworks, the National Society to Prevent Blindness supports restrictions on importation, sale and use of all fireworks devices, except those used in authorized public programs by competent operators, as the only effective means of minimizing the social and economic impact of fireworks accidents.

Hopefully, this Independence Day weekend will be a safe one. A fine line separates the difference between a great, relaxing holiday and a accident experience that can leave devastating results for life.

A safe holiday is one where accidents are prevented by good common sense and caution when the possibility of danger is present.

Let's make this Independence Day weekend a time to have a good experience with our families, loved ones and friends.





TWO BULL moose wander through the wheel sprinkling system at the Jim Drollinger farm in Maeser. The two moose were spotted by Joe Hacking last Sunday.

PUBLIC FORUM
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is your opinion? The Express welcomes letters from its readers concerning any subject pertinent to the Uintah Basin. There are no restrictions as to contents, if not libelous or vindictive and of reasonable length. Letters must be submitted exclusively to the Express and bear the writer's full name, signature, phone number and address. The name or name of those submitting letters must appear on all published letters. All letters are subject to condensation. Letters express the opinion of the writer and are not necessarily the opinion of the Express Editor.

'Graduation' response

Dear Editor,

It has not been the tradition at Uintah High School to have the Valedictorian or Salutatorian speak at graduation. It has been, however, an open invitation to have speech tryouts for any senior wishing to speak.

Every year there is an invitation for seniors who would like to help with graduation. This committee makes most all of the decisions associated with graduation.

The graduation list is not posted until three days before graduation, because teachers are not sure what the students have in their classes. At that time the Valedictorian and Salutatorian are determined.

JENIFER GUDAC
Graduation Advisor

Josie shoot

Dear Editor,

The Josie .22 Rifle Shoot was fun and well organized. This annual event is a definite asset to our Outlaw Trail Festival. I plan to participate again next year and encourage others to join in.

Carole Jackson and everyone who assisted are to be congratulated for their efforts.

CHRISTINE Y. SMITH
Vernal

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Mixed blood Utes issues

Dear Editor:

I would like to briefly respond to the letter you printed in the June 23 edition of the Express in which Dora Van and Margaret Reed (signed "Concerned Mixed-Blood Members") criticized the Aboriginal Ute Nation (AUN) and me, the AUN's legal consultant. Their primary criticism is that the AUN is attempting to approach the United Nations without first exhausting domestic remedies. However, if these concerned mixed-blood members would take the time to attend one of the open meetings sponsored by the AUN—and they have been invited to—one of the first things they would learn is that the AUN has been in the process of exhausting domestic remedies, not only through the legislative branch of the government, but also through the executive branch.

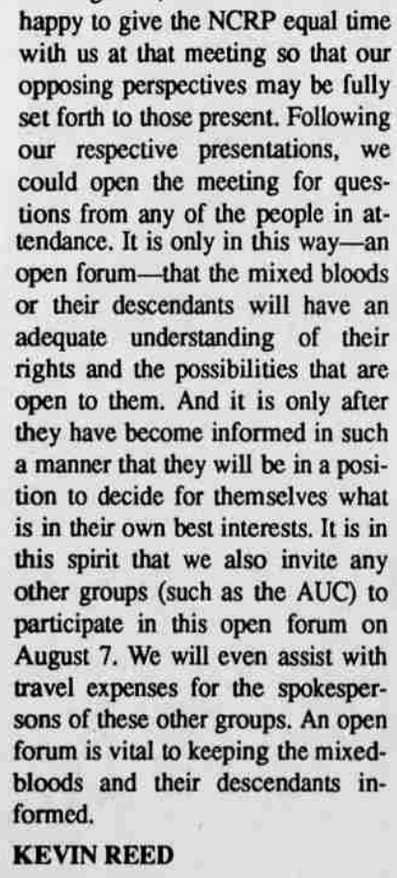
It is the position of the Aboriginal Ute Nation that we fully support the NCRP and any other organization that is dedicated to working openly and in good faith to achieve justice for the mixed-bloods and their descendants. At this time we would like to inform those people that the AUN has drafted some proposed legislation, after consulting with about fifteen of the leading American Indian attorneys in the country. This legislation would amend the Ute Partition Act's provisions pertaining to taxation, jurisdiction, and the applicability of federal Indian Law to the mixed-bloods and their descendants. This legislation would also provide for the establishment of an arbitration court or committee with the exclusive responsibility for extinguishing any and all claims which have arisen as a result of the Ute Partition Act, provided such claims are filed within five years after enactment of the proposed bill. Under this proposed bill, neither the doctrine of res judicata nor any statute of limitations would apply, which means that because we have recently uncovered evidence which virtually reverses critical facts the federal courts have relied upon to make their decisions in cases litigated by the mixed-bloods over the years, most of those cases may be relitigated in the court of arbitration.

We would like to cordially invite the NCRP and any other organization or individual to critically review and provide your input into this draft legislation. Since the NCRP is working on corrective legislation, perhaps after some discussion we will discover that the most sensible and effective way of pursuing the legislation we seek would be to consolidate the two proposed bills. In so doing, we would also be consolidating our resources (i.e. influential contacts who will endorse and sponsor the bill). The AUN does have many contacts who would be helpful to us—and to the NCRP—if we were to work together. It is certainly worthy of consideration.

As for Ms. Van and Ms. Reed's points on federal Indian law, I am very familiar with those points they have raised, as I have written text material on the subject matter which is used in graduate and under-graduate level college courses in the United States and Canada, and I have lectured on federal Indian law at various colleges and universities. While space limitations preclude me from going into detail in this open letter, I would be more than happy to discuss these issues with the NCRP or any other people and explain to you why Ms. Reed's and Ms. Van's legal arguments are untenable. Those arguments they have raised are merely a regurgitation of white racist rhetoric about how white makes right without regard to fundamental human rights.

All of these issues are very complex and cannot be adequately discussed in the "Dear Editor" section of a newspaper, and this is why the Aboriginal Ute Nation has been sponsoring open meetings. The next meeting scheduled will be held at the convention center at Bottle Hollow in Ft. Duchesne at 1:00 p.m. on August 7, 1993. We would be happy to give the NCRP equal time with us at that meeting so that our opposing perspectives may be fully set forth to those present. Following our respective presentations, we could open the meeting for questions from any of the people in attendance. It is only in this way—an open forum—that the mixed bloods or their descendants will have an adequate understanding of their rights and the possibilities that are open to them. And it is only after they have become informed in such a manner that they will be in a position to decide for themselves what is in their own best interests. It is in this spirit that we also invite any other groups (such as the AUC) to participate in this open forum on August 7. We will even assist with travel expenses for the spokespersons of these other groups. An open forum is vital to keeping the mixed-bloods and their descendants informed.

KEVIN REED
Legal Consultant,
Aboriginal Ute Nation



Bear's fire

Dear Editor,

Recently we had an electrical fire in our building at Bear's Corner in Naples City. Although it was small, it had the potential, if it had not been caught and extinguished when it was, to have destroyed the building and our new business. We are located next to Bear's Feed Emporium and had only been open for business for one week, in which we have a music show and pot-bellied pig races every Wednesday through Saturday. Last Wednesday morning at 5 a.m. we received a phone call saying that our building was on fire. When we arrived at the scene, the Naples City Fire Department was already there. After detecting that the fire was in the attic they very professionally dealt with the situation. Realizing that they were going to have to remove the ceiling in the front office and foyer, which is also being used as a gift shop and tourist information area, the firemen meticulously moved all the crafts, office supplies and furniture and even several birds, which were in the shop on consignment, to the back of the building where they would be safe from smoke and water damage. Not one single item in the building was damaged because of their willingness and concern to go beyond their duties. What could have been a devastating situation instead has become an opportunity to highly praise and thank the Naples City Fire Department and firemen. We want to say that we are proud to be a part of Naples City.

LARRY "BEAR" GURR AND
GIDGET GARDNER

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS

XANADU IN LONDON

by Dr. Richard L. Lesher, President
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

WASHINGTON — "In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure dome decree," wrote the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge in a verse familiar to most high school students.

But Coleridge's fictional Kubla Khan had nothing on real-life Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, who is busily erecting a modern pleasure dome in the London financial district.

The EBRD was created two years ago for the worthy purpose of investing in nations struggling to recover from years of communism. The idea is to funnel Western investment capital into 24 post-communist nations of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, at least 60 percent of which must go to private enterprises. It is a good idea that any freedom loving capitalist would appreciate.

But no government program, no matter how nobly conceived and intelligently designed, can survive irresponsible, self-serving management. Jacques Attali, who inherited the EBRD presidency, via his friendship with French President Francois Mitterand, has spent the lion's share of the bank's startup money, not to foster enterprises in former communist countries, but to construct and furnish a garishly lavish headquarters in London that would put Louis XIV's Palace of Versailles to shame.

No expense was spared. The EBRD budget director justified $1.2 million to replace the Travertine marble in the lobby with Carrara marble because the original marble, which cost $2 million, "didn't give us the right feeling." The EBRD bought 600 elaborate desks made of steel and glass for $1,000 each. Custom made carpeting was purchased "to ensure that it appears to be the same color regardless of lighting." Some $900,000 has gone to lease private planes for Mr. Attali who just can't bring himself to board commercial aircraft.

There is a direct correlation between spending and accountability. The further away the spender is from the taxpayer, the greater the likelihood of Carrara marble in the lobby. Government bureaucrats, who generally aren't held accountable to anyone, routinely squander vast sums of money and think nothing of it. International organizations, which are at least two steps away from the people who are paying the freight, tend to be even more wasteful.

The United States is pledged to provide $350 million to the EBRD, the first $70 million of it this year. At 10 percent, the United States is the biggest shareholder in the institution. Thus, the U.S. stands to be hurt most from Mr. Attali's excesses.

Both the Clinton administration and Congress are having none of it. They are making it clear that fundamental changes in the EBRD must be forthcoming before any U.S. money is put on the table. The American people are willing to help post-communist countries recover from central economic planning, but there is scant public support for construction of lavish palaces. In this new era of austerity, even international organizations must be accountable.